

### IS SUBSIDY CONTROL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION A MENACE?

Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics recently published the address of Dr. John B. Deaver, delivered before the College of Surgeons. He said: "We who are doing the world's work must see to it that our influence in this respect is not usurped by those who sit at their desks and think out specious arguments, fortified by vast financial power placed at their disposal by well-meaning men who are not themselves qualified to judge in this sphere, but must be guided by advisers who are not always infallible. I am thinking of the recent furor in favor of the full-time teacher in clinical branches. I am musing over the creation of great clinicians overnight by the feat of powerful influence. I am impressed by the rapid metamorphosis of the fledgling, nurtured, shielded, not to say mentally confined within the limits of sympathetic institutions and departments. I am not questioning the motives of the originators of this audacious movement, but I am watching for its results—not too brilliant thus far and promising less. I am concerned for the students, and would be alarmed for the profession were it not for my great confidence in the sober sense of that great body of a democracy such as this, which will eventually work its way towards its own proper method of dealing safely and sanely with conditions. Still I marvel at that new super-intelligence, which in rapid pursuit of its ideal, sets aside the principle of natural selection, the well-proved motive of human endeavor (high reward) and the cardinal virtue for the attainment of practical results—experience. In my heart I am thankful that such men had no voice in the selection of a generalissimo for the allied armies, and I note with curious reflection that the vast resources upon which the idea floats were not obtained and are not conserved by similar fancies.

"During the last five years, as you know, the tendency has been toward the full-time clinical teacher. Its central idea was good, but its application, begun before the war, if I mistake not, was influenced by the German idea of efficiency, which, as you all know, failed utterly to include the human element in its equation. Without wishing to appear reactionary, but with the interest of the profession in mind, I do not hesitate to say that I doubt the wisdom of the present course. It is an extreme, and the pendulum must soon swing in the opposite direction. The professor of clinical branches should not only be allowed, he should be obliged, to be in direct professional contact with the public. The science and art of surgery are one and inseparable. There can be no art that is not based on science, and there is no science without its practical application. Of the chaste union of the two shall spring the fruit of the tree of life for the untold millions, born and unborn, whose lives and whose happiness shall depend upon sane surgical science and safe surgical skill. Science has been kept sane only by constant contact with observed and demonstrable facts, like the giant who renewed his strength by contact with mother earth. Practice is kept sane and free from danger of the rule of thumb only by a constant infusion of science. The problem of today is to avoid conflict between these essential elements of a real union, to provide for their proper function, to inculcate into the minds of the young the true conception of their relations and responsibilities, and to deliver to society the greatest good to the greatest number. The last consideration is the most momentous one, for it means results, and it is by results that we shall justly be judged.

"We must deplore, therefore, anything which detracts from that high standard of service to the community which the community has a right to demand, in view of the extraordinary freedom and power which it has conferred upon us. It is our profound belief that the system of full-time sal-

aried chairs for the clinical branches which has been forced upon a number of our foremost institutions by powerful influences is not only contrary to the spirit of American institutions, and contrary to the proper workings of the human mind, but that it is sure to result in degeneration of that art which is the true flower of science, and in the deterioration of the instruction to the student in how to deal effectively with the problems which he must confront in his chosen life work. To me the plan smells of the midnight oil of the theorist (to say nothing of the oil which has lubricated the ways for its launching). It has in it none of the red blood of the real administrator working to get results with humanity as God made humanity. In its application as I have witnessed it the plan shows no appreciation of the fact that the head of a clinical chair must be a clinician. Is not the clinical art also a science? Does it not rest upon knowledge and does it not depend upon aptitude, ability, experience and hard work? Can anyone become a clinician by merely calling himself by that name? Does appointment to a professional chair make him a teacher? Or is it no longer true that in addition to knowledge, which is not so common a possession, the successful department head must have qualities of personal integrity, stimulating personality, and administrative ability?

"In attempting to remedy the evil of the clinical professor overloaded with private practice and neglecting his teaching, his department, and his scientific work, these men of admirable intentions have gone to an equally unjust extreme. Orderly evolution was going on, even rapidly, if one considers world movements; but it apparently was not rapid enough for those who seek to reach the heights in a bound. But this is the day when the professor may try his theories on the whole human race, and the Pied Piper of Hamelin has his counterpart in Russia and would-be imitators everywhere.

"If I mistake not, there are signs of returning sanity. The domination of those who have shown their inadequate grasp of the whole problem is being loosened. Let us hope that the education of our youth will be entrusted to men who are outstanding figures in the field which they are presenting to the impressionable mind. Let us all fully realize that science is the beginning of practice, and that practice is the goal of science."

### THE GORGAS MEMORIAL FUND

At the St. Louis annual session the Board of Trustees reported to the House of Delegates that in response to a request received from the directors of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine for the co-operation of the American Medical Association, the Board had taken action which resulted in the appointment of a committee, representing the American Medical Association, to act on the project. The following were appointed: Charles W. Richardson, Washington, D. C.; Fred B. Lund, Boston, and George E. de Schweinitz, Philadelphia.

The House of Delegates unqualifiedly endorsed the Gorgas Memorial as a tribute to a past president of the Association and one of its most distinguished and loved members. At its recent meeting the executive committee of the Board of Trustees received the following statement from the committee and directed its publication:

#### Statement and Appeal for Co-operation

As a result of the stimulating suggestion of President Porras of Panama, it has been resolved that a fitting memorial shall mark the humanitarian service of the late Major General William C. Gorgas, and the beneficent influence of his life and work on mankind throughout the world. Following the thought of President Porras, it has further been decided that this memorial shall take the